

## Message Text

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21

ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 TRSE-00 L-02 /015 W

----- 120616

R 010952Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1077

INFO AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 3071

E.O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: OEXC (F-H COMMISSION FOR SAUDI ARABIA), SA, US

SUBJ: FULBRIGHT-HAYES COMMISSION: TOO EARLY

REF : STATE 89083

BEGIN SUMMARY: EMBASSY WOULD WELCOME FULBRIGHT-HAYES  
COMMISSION FOR SAUDI ARABIA PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF  
RECENT REQUESTS THROUGH ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR MASSIVE  
RECRUITMENT IN BOTH HIGHER AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION  
SECTORS. HOWEVER, FORCING PACE OF SAUDI CHANGE ON VISA  
RULES COULD WELL HAZARD WHOLE PROCESS OF CHANGE NOW  
UNDERWAY. REQUEST APPROACH ON F-H IDEA BE DEFERRED UNTIL  
1976. END SUMMARY

1. EXPLORATION OF FULBRIGHT-HAYES COMMISSION FOR SAUDI  
ARABIA HAS BEEN DONE INFORMALLY WITH SAUDI COORDINATOR  
OF ECONOMIC COMMISSION, DR. SULAIM, WHO HAS BEEN KEY  
ADVOCATE OF MODERNIZING SAUDI PRACTICES IN ISSUANCE OF  
VISAS. MATTER WAS DISCUSSED BY ECONOMIC COUNSELOR IN  
PRESENCE OF USIS RIYADH CENTER DIRECTOR BERNIER AND  
ECONOMIC COMMISSION LIAISON OFFICER MCARTHUR APRIL 27.  
REFERENCE MADE TO REQUESTS FOR LARGE NUMBER OF FACULTY  
MEMBERS FOR BOTH HIGHER EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL  
INSTITUTIONS.

2. SOLAIM IMMEDIATELY REACTED TO IDEA THAT FORMAL  
REASSURANCES MIGHT HAVE TO BE SOUGHT FROM SAG AT THIS  
MOMENT CONCERNING REMOVAL OF ALL RESTRAINTS ON ENTRY  
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INTO SAUDI ARABIA. THERE WERE SECURITY RISKS, REAL RISKS,

THAT WOULD BE RAISED BY THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR IN  
ADOPTING COMPLETELY NON-DISCRIMINATORY VISA PRACTICES.  
HE POINTED OUT THAT WHILE ECONOMIC COMMISSION EXPERTS AND  
NEWSMEN NOW BEING GIVEN TACITLY FREE ENTRY WITHOUT REGARD  
TO RELIGION, FORMAL PLEDGE OF CHANGE BY SAG WOULD BE  
SOMETHING ELSE, PARTICULARLY FOR RESIDENT FACULTY TO BE  
RECRUITED UNDER F-H AUSPICES. THIS DID NOT MEAN THAT  
SOME RESIDENT FACULTY MIGHT NOT BE POSSIBLE IN THE  
NEAR FUTURE BUT HE PREFERRED THAT CONFRONTATION ON  
THIS ISSUE BY FORMAL APPROACH ON BASIS OF ESTABLISHING  
F-H BE AVOIDED. CHANGE WILL COME, BUT IT WILL BE DELAYED  
IF IT IS PUSHED TOO FAST AND PUBLICLY AND WHOLE PROCESS  
OF CHANGE MIGHT BE HAZARDED IN SUCH A CASE.

3. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS PLACING F-H PROPOSAL IN SUSPENSE FOR  
MOMENT AND WAIT AT LEAST UNTIL 1976 BEFORE REOPENING.

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
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**TAGS:** OEXC, SA, US  
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